

Connections

January 2011

Director Kevin Keith's Top 10 Signs of Progress

We have much to be proud of as we start a new year. We made strong progress in improving the state's highway system in 2010. That means better, more efficient roads and bridges that save lives, reduce congestion and create jobs. We also had a change in leadership this past year, with our former chief engineer, Kevin Keith, taking over as director on Nov. 4. Here's a look at Kevin's top 10 signs of progress in 2010.

1. Fatalities Lowest Since 1950

Engineering improvements, enforcement, education and emergency services are credited with the 31 percent drop in highway deaths since 2005. Traffic fatalities are the lowest they've been since 1950.

2. KcICON Opens Early

The new Christopher S. Bond Bridge, built as part of KcICON, a major highway project in Kansas City, opened to traffic several months ahead of schedule. Roads and Bridges magazine selected the KcICON project as 2010's top road project and the fifth best bridge project.

3. 86 Percent of Major Highways in Good Condition

Missourians' investment in transportation through Amendment 3 enabled us to bring 86 percent of the state's major highways up to good condition.

4. A New or Improved Bridge Opening Every 2.5 Days

The Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program is fast at work repairing or replacing 802 of the worst bridges in the state, with a new or improved bridge opening about every two and a half days.



The new Christopher S. Bond Bridge in Kansas City opened to traffic several months ahead of schedule.

5. Progress on Major Highway Corridors, Rural Roads

One hundred and nine miles of four-lane or shared four-lane highway was added to the books in 2010. In addition, through cutting costs and budget savings, we identified \$64 million to put toward fixing minor roads.

6. I-64 Selected Best Transportation Project in the Nation, Springfield Diverging Diamond Most Innovative

The Interstate 64 reconstruction project in St. Louis was named the country's best transportation project. In addition, the new diverging diamond interchange in Springfield, Mo., won the Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation.

7. Customer Satisfaction, Trust Remain High

Eighty-three percent of Missourians report they are satisfied or very

satisfied with the job we do. In addition, 92 percent trust us to keep our commitments. Truckers rated their satisfaction with our Motor Carrier Services Division at 95.7 percent.

8. MoDOT Recycles Billions of Pounds of Waste

Since 2005, we have kept 8.4 billion pounds of waste from going to landfills.

Those efforts have twice earned us the top state recycling awards.

9. Amtrak Ridership and On-Time Performance Continue to Improve

Ridership on Amtrak's Missouri River Runner trains between St. Louis and Kansas City increased from 154,000 to 168,000 during fiscal year 2010 and on-time performance rose to a record-high average of 92 percent.

10. New Interstate Coming to Missouri

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission in March approved highway construction that will upgrade Highway 71 between Kansas City and Joplin to interstate standards by the end of 2012.

Missouri Remembers Impaired Driving Victims

by Reeve White

In a tribute to lives impacted by impaired driving crashes, nearly 100 people joined together at the Missouri State Capitol on Dec. 9 in remembrance and resolve to prevent these needless tragedies.

While fatalities in Missouri have decreased by 31 percent since 2005, impaired driving fatalities have remained steady, contributing to more than 30 percent of all fatalities. Over the past five years, 1,394 Missourians have been killed in impaired driving crashes.

A Christmas tree was lit in honor of the 281 lives lost in 2009 as a result of impaired driving. Attendees were encouraged to take ornaments to help remember their loved ones.

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Gold-Level Excellence

D9 receives concrete pavement award

A New Year's Resolution to be ePHIT®

by Sally Oxenhandler

Believe it or not, I do try to work at being fit. I exercise, try to eat right and now that one child is in college and the other can drive, I do get more rest than I used to. But I know I can do more, so I'm making a New Year's resolution to get e-PHIT.

When I first heard about My e-PHIT, offered through our health care provider, Coventry Health Care, I thought it sounded great. Punch a few computer keys and - voila - you're miraculously fitter and healthier than you were when you sat down! Unfortunately, that's not how it works. If it did, we wouldn't have to clean house or take the dog for a walk either.

No, you still have to do the work. Darn. But what's neat about My ePHIT is that not only are you likely to improve your health by tracking your efforts at maintaining a healthy diet, lifestyle and exercise program, you can earn rewards, too. Family members who are in the plan can participate and reap the benefits as well.

All you have to do is register at My Online Services on the Coventry Plan website at <http://modot.coventryhealth-care.com/index.htm>. At that point, you'll have an opportunity to take a health risk assessment (don't fib like I



Register at My Online Services on the Coventry Plan website to begin using ePHIT.

was tempted to!) and review the health improvement training programs available through My ePHIT:

- GetPHIT™ provides personalized exercise designed to meet personal goals.
- EatPHIT™ provides diet and nutrition planning. This program provides tools and resources to support

healthy eating using customized meal plans.

- LivePHIT™ supports issues of life balance such as stress management skills, family communication and community involvement.
- FamilyPHIT™ provides resources specific to the interests and concerns

of children and teens. The two programs are called KidsPHIT™ and TeenPHIT™.

My ePHIT is my kind of health program. It's easy to use and pays you back. I'm thinking this is one New Year's resolution I just might be able to keep!

Paying It Forward MoDOT Awards Allow for Generous Charitable Donations

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission members and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presented a \$10,000 donation to Operation Food Search on Dec. 1. The donation stemmed from national recognition received by the Interstate 64 project in St. Louis.

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In October, I-64 received the America's Transportation Award Grand Prize from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Along with the national recognition, the award provides a \$10,000 donation to be given to a charity of the recipient's choice.

During the I-64 opening ceremony in December 2009, MoDOT teamed with Operation Food Search to collect food and money to feed the hungry in St. Louis. It was fitting for MoDOT to continue its partnership with Operation Food Search through the \$10,000 donation.

Operation Food Search supplies food and necessities to 265 member agencies in 31 counties of Missouri and Illinois. Each month, Operation Food Search distributes more than two million pounds of food and household items to



Operation Food Search received a \$10,000 donation. Pictured are (l-r) Director Kevin Keith, Operation Food Search Executive Director Sunny Schaefer, OFS General Manager Gary Wells, District 6 Engineer Ed Hassinger and Community Relations Coordinator Linda Wilson.

feed more than 120,000 people. Nearly half of the recipients are children.

The nation's first diverging diamond project in Springfield also received national recognition when MoDOT was awarded the Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation. This prestigious award also provides a \$10,000 graduate fellowship to bestow on a state university student pursuing an advanced transportation-related degree. MoDOT is

working with Missouri State University to identify a recipient and present the fellowship.

For more information on the America's Transportation Award, visit <http://www.americatransportationaward.org/>. Additional information on Operation Food Search can be found at <http://www.operationfoodsearch.org/>.

Missouri Remembers Victims

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During the ceremony, the Highway Patrol showed a new video called "Instant of Choice" that tells the story of two lives forever changed by an impaired driving crash. The video can be viewed in the Highway Patrol museum. A new website, www.instantofchoice.org, was also announced where you can leave tributes to friends and loved ones victimized by impaired driving.

Together, we remember. Together, we can make a difference by exercising personal responsibility and making the right choice to drive sober.



Nearly 100 people joined together at the Missouri State Capitol on Dec. 9 in remembrance and resolve to prevent impaired driving tragedies.

EOC Keeps Motorists A-OK

by Melissa Black

Missouri motorists are moving around the state more easily and safely now, thanks to improved response efforts by the districts and coordination by the Central Office Emergency Operations Center. Since 2005, the EOC has been working to help with incident management across the state, reducing congestion where possible, keeping traffic moving and ultimately reducing possible traffic crashes, fatalities and injuries on our roads.

The EOC consists of Central Office Maintenance and Traffic staff in Jefferson City who work together with district employees to help address emergencies and disasters on our roads. For almost six years, EOC staff has supported the districts while they responded to incidents such as bridge hits, floods, ice, snow, wind, and tornado activity. The EOC has helped districts respond to 39 incidents around the state, and MoDOT has participated in another 86 preparedness exercises.

"Our goal is to support MoDOT staff statewide to keep our roads open and as safe as possible," says Rick Bennett, traffic liaison engineer. "We've really worked to help make our responses in emergencies more efficient and consistent across the state."

The staff in the EOC shares information across district lines during emergencies and disasters. They also help

facilitate the sharing of resources like employees, equipment and materials when needed around the state.

Another aspect of being prepared for emergencies includes working with other state agencies. "We work extensively with other state agencies so we are all ready and better prepared to react and respond when we need to," Bennett says.

The EOC does need special equipment to get the information out there. This statewide system includes extensive technology allowing smooth operations among the districts including:

- Satellite-based Internet, telephone and radio communications for disaster communications when MoDOT network and landline communications are out.
- Radio communications on numerous radio bands; radio communications with all 10 MoDOT districts, and the ability to interoperate with many other agencies.
- Situational awareness monitors that show displays of the Traveler Information Map, and interstate video cameras.
- A large backup generator that provides power for the entire building.
- The new "radio room" is larger and has operator positions and computers for four people as well as two situational awareness monitors.

"The EOC plays an integral role in helping us take care of what we have so that we can all work to keep everyone safe on our roads," Bennett says.

Just the Right Mix

Not too hot, not too cold... but just right.

by Jorma Duran

Even though we work for MoDOT, the finer details of how a road is created may not be common knowledge. As for the traveling public, well, most couldn't tell you exactly what gets mixed up and slathered down either. Asphalt is asphalt, right? WRONG. It's time to begin learning more about warm-mix asphalt, a newer roadway technology that's helping to produce stronger and longer-lasting roads, while reducing harmful emissions and the total cost to taxpayers as well.

MoDOT has used 780,000 tons of warm-mix asphalt since 2006, although the vast majority of warm-mix projects have happened within the last 18 months. The recent use of warm-mix asphalt has resulted in 570 miles of two-lane resurfacing work and another 125 miles of brand new two-lane Mis-

souri roadway. This is exciting news because close to 700 miles of Missouri roadway is now improved with a mixture that didn't spit out excessive harmful emissions. With warm-mix asphalt, the temperature needed for production is reduced by up to 100 degrees. A decreased production temperature results in lower emissions from burning fuels, fumes, and odors generated at the plant and at the paving site.

Now let us go from saving our environment to saving money. Lower production temperatures needed for warm-mix asphalt result in better pavement density. A better density means a stronger road. A stronger road means a traveling surface that'll last longer, which will require less maintenance and overall money spent. Also, taxpayers save from 10 to 30 cents per ton right from the start because less energy is needed to produce warm-mix asphalt.

More contractors are using warm-mix asphalt and there's a good chance you've already driven on this money-saving technology. Missouri roadways that have been improved with warm-mix asphalt include I-44, I-55, and I-70, U.S. 54, U.S. 65, U.S. 50, U.S. 71 and Missouri 291.



Carly Morrison

Safe & Sound

by Bob Brendel

Safe & Sound bridge construction is over for the winter, but plenty of work is under way to prepare for 2011 when more bridges will be built in 11 months than in the last 22.

Starting in February, KTU Constructors, MoDOT's design-build contractor, will embark on a 300-bridge schedule for 2011. After concentrating their work in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 10 in this past year, they'll be building bridges in all 10 districts in 2011. In addition, MoDOT will have as many as 67 bridge rehabilitation projects under contract by June, and most of those will also be completed in 2011.

"We ended 2010 having completed 330 bridges," said Project Director Ken Warbritton. "Safe & Sound is on budget and well on its way to delivering 802 better bridges by the end of 2013."

The pace of Safe & Sound bridge construction projects hit a fever pitch during the fall when MoDOT, KTU Constructors and other Missouri construction partners delivered 114 bridges in a span of 103 days. Ninety of those projects were brand new bridges built by KTU.



Beam installation over Spring Fork Creek on Route U in Pettis County.

During the winter months, MoDOT will be working with the public, local officials, emergency responders, school districts and others to coordinate the construction schedule, detour routes and other issues. Quite a few community briefings have already been held.

To assess the level of customer satisfaction with the Safe & Sound program, a survey was taken during November in Platte, Pettis, Putnam and Stoddard counties. Responses showed that the vast majority of respondents knew about closures in advance, giving them an opportunity to plan to take detours or alternate routes. Addition-

ally, the survey asked about the quality of the bridges, again with a majority indicating high satisfaction with the completed Safe & Sound bridges. The survey also asked residents about their preferences in learning about Safe & Sound bridge construction and closures.

Both the local media and road signs got high marks from survey respondents, reinforcing the importance of these communication tools.

The survey results will also be utilized in planning communications strategies for future Safe & Sound activities.

Survey Results

Design-Build Bridges Completed	156
Avg. Closure Duration	38.6 days
Modified Design-Bid-Build Bridges Completed	174
Avg. Closure Duration	48.8 days
Total Bridges Completed	330
Avg. Closure Duration	43.6 days

New Legislature Brings New Opportunities For MoDOT

by Jorma Duran

The 2011 legislative session of the Missouri General Assembly begins at noon on Jan. 5, 2011.

As a result of the November election, there will be 83 newly elected House and Senate members that will be sworn into office on the first day of session. With the exception of a few re-elected officials, most of these newly elected officeholders have never held a public office. Many of these elected officials are business owners, automobile dealers, former school teachers, farmers and retirees.

“This year provides the department with a unique opportunity to work with and to educate a whole new audience on the importance of providing a good transportation system to all Missourians and what a good transportation system means to economic development for the

state of Missouri,” says Jay Wunderlich, governmental relations director.

“It is very important for any state agency to introduce itself to all newly elected officials - on both the state and federal levels - so that a solid working relationship can be established in order to work together towards passing good public policy,” says Wunderlich, who is presently scheduling meetings for MoDOT’s Director Kevin Keith to visit with key leadership positions in both the House and Senate.

During the 2011 legislative session, the legislature will be primarily focusing on passing a balanced state budget. Currently, the state of Missouri has a general revenue budget of \$23 billion. Because of the recent decline in the state’s economy, the legislature will have to cut the fiscal year 2012 budget

by about \$600 million. State programs, projects and a reduction in the number of state employees will all be discussed as ways of reducing state expenditures in order to balance the budget.

Unlike general revenue funded agencies, the state’s highway and bridge funds are constitutionally protected and appropriated by the six-person bipartisan Highway Commission. However, even the department doesn’t escape the downward economy and budget cuts as it has implemented a new Five-Year Direction as a way to cut back expenditures and put more money on the state’s highway system.

As of Dec. 1, members of the General Assembly began introducing legislative proposals for the 2011 session. Some of the transportation-related measures that have already been introduced this

session range from changing the state’s current no texting while driving law to all ages instead of only 21 years of age and under; increasing the fine for seat belt violations from a \$10 to a \$50 fine; exempting motorcyclists age 21 and older from wearing a motorcycle helmet; all the way to filing legislation that would memorialize the death and passing of a person by designating portions of Missouri’s highways and bridges.

On the federal level, MoDOT’s Governmental Relations staff will be working with two new Congressional members who have recently been elected to office - Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (R-Central Missouri) and Congressman Billy Long (R-Southwest Missouri) - along with Missouri’s re-elected Congressional members and two senators.

Editor’s Note: The December 2010 issue of *Connections* included the service anniversary listings for November instead of December. We regret the error

December Service Anniversaries

35 Years		Donald G. Benham	D7
Steven L. Tarr	D2	Jimmie G. Chastain	D8
Carolyn Corum	CO	Robert M. Ringelsen	D9
30 Years		Mark E. Shelton	D10
Donald W. Bigby	D2	Allen E. Friedrich	D10
Duane L. Buersmeyer	CO	20 Years	
25 Years		David C. Doty	D1
Gary W. Fewins	D1	Loren G. Dickmeier	D4
Thomas J. DeWall	D2	Bradford E. Williams	D4
Roger D. Page	D3	15 Years	
Arthur R. Mueller	D5	Brett Conkling	D1
Paul W. Kraft	D7	Randy L. Demery	D5

Phillip M. Ruffus	D6	Gary B. Clinton	D7
Keith D. Martin	D7	Jerad A. Finch	D8
Doug H. Wilks	D7	Pamela K. Masterson	D10
Judy M. Harris-Turner	D9	Andrew P. Mack	D10
Tommie L. Chitwood	D9	James L. Leach	D10
Tamara R. Clutts	CO	Michael J. Brandon	D10
Bev S. Thoenen	CO	Teresa L. Houck-Shannon	CO
Christine D. Sublette	CO	Todd A. Hogg	CO
10 Years		5 Years	
Douglas J. Reeves	D1	William S. Beagle	D1
Christina M. Teter	D2	Gary L. Moffett	D2
Jason G. Harvey	D2	Timothy R. Glasgow	D3
Terry J. Beets	D2	Martin P. Lefholz	D6
R. Keith Boling	D3	Daniel P. Trunk	D6
Kurtis K. Hathaway	D4	Michael S. Halbert	D9
Brenda L. Rempe	D4	Rick A. Faulkner	D9
Kenneth E. Jenkins	D6	Ida S. Mitchell	CO
Robert L. Creamer	D6	Lindsey M. Boswell	CO
Kevin W. Ogden	D6		
Wesley C. Stephen	D6		
Dennis A. Brown	D6		

January Service Anniversaries

30 Years		15 Years	
Roger A. Lamb	D5	Timothy A. Waters	D1
25 Years		Kenneth W. Henley	D1
Billy D. Bledsoe	D1	Jason E. Shafer	D3
Vickie L. Ray	D2	Troy E. Hughes	D5
Larry G. Wehrman	D3	Nicole A. Kolb-Hood	D5
Norman C. Hellebusch	D3	Travis L. Riggs	D5
Allen E. Hale	D4	Rebecca D. Allmeroth	D6
Thomas O. Yates	D4	Phillip A. Krull	D6
Edmund T. Moody	D5	James W. Tubaugh	D7
Scott W. Boyer	D6	Billy L. Dodd	D8
Davar Divanbeigi	D6	Jennifer L. Russell	D9
Randall S. Glaser	D6	Stephen A. Bubanovich	D10
John V. Grana	D6	10 Years	
Dennis P. Krenning	D8	Jeffrey P. Abplanalp	D1
Willie R. May	D8	Timothy G. McGaughey	D1
William J. Barred	D9	Scott E. Clark	D1
Kristin M. Ryan	D9	Jose A. Rodriguez	D1
Kenneth R. Kell	CO	Amy B. Crawford	D2
20 Years		Ryan D. Brobst	D2
Kevin E. Williams	D3	Richard D. Parks	D4
Jerry D. Kliethermes	D5	Jennifer S. Murry	D4
Michael E. Teel	D5	Dale J. Hoellering	D5
Connie S. Morrison	D9	Roger T. Estopare	D6
Kyle L. Brown	CO	James D. Connell	D6
Danny A. Woods	CO	John P. Dixon	D6
Scott B. Stotlemeyer	CO	Gary D. Schlater	D6
Matthew B. McMichael	CO	Paul VanBibber	D9
Alan D. Miller	CO	Travis C. Reese	D9
		Melanie D. Rickard-Elmore	D9
		William W. Johnson	D9

Glen C. Miller	D9	Nicole M. Roberts	D4
Kyle B. Johnson	D10	Holly Dentner	D5
Beverly J. Barnes	D10	Robert J. Kleinschmidt	D6
Al Shawn	CO	Jonathan S. Chisholm	D6
Richard A. Gabelsberger	CO	Franklin T. Vance	D6
Gary J. Holtmeyer	CO	Eric D. Kellstadt	D7
Melissa A. Anderson	CO	Jason M. Shafer	D8
Robert C. Brendel	CO	Deborah M. Rodriguez	D8
Preston L. Kramer	CO	Russell N. Klein	D8
Charles M. Hiebert	CO	John C. Robinson	D10
Connie J. Stottlemeyer	CO	James J. Dishman	CO
Jay W. Moore	CO	Larry Grantham	CO
5 Years		Amy L. Wilson	CO
Melanie R. Noel	D1	Randall O. Wagner	CO
Shawn M. Epperson	D2		
Keith A. Minnis	D2		
Andrew L. Daniels	D2		
Matthew E. Kelley	D4		
Albert J. Byrd	D4		

In Memoriam

Active		
James “Jim” D. Honse	D5	Nov. 14
Retirees		
Joseph G. Bushko	CO	Nov. 2
Linus L. Glastetter	D10	Nov. 3
Marvin E. Longden	CO	Nov. 5
John E. Durbin	D4	Nov. 6
Andrew J. Phipps	D4	Nov. 9
Carol W. Hall	D3	Nov. 27

November Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Lester Doss	D1	13
Gary Dreher	D1	31
David Rhoades	D1	25
Thomas Yates	D4	24
Edward Nichols	D4	32
Randy Schuman	D4	16
Stephan Neumann	D4	5
Michael O’Malley	D5	32
Peter Selle	D6	26
Lloyd Lockett	D6	29
Cloyd Miller	D6	27



Central Office

Missouri Promotes Litter-Free Roadways Around the World

by Melissa Black

MoDOT helped promote litter-free roadways around the world recently when they hosted the International Adopt-A-Highway Association's Conference Connect 2010 webinar. Participants came from coast-to-coast and even down under, and included representatives from Adopt-A-Highway groups, non-profit organizations, litter contractors and other litter-prevention programs.

"Keeping our states and countries clean and beautiful is just as much about safety as it is about pride, and it's still an important topic, even with dwindling travel and conference budgets," says Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT's statewide AAH program coordinator and the IAAHA secretary. "That's why we felt so strongly about supporting AAH in our state, our country and around the world by hosting this webinar."

The association was formed in 1996 to create and sustain a global litter-free highway system through education and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. All 50 states and several countries have AAH programs or similar litter-prevention programs.

The IAAHA began hosting conferences in 1996 to allow states and countries to present what they've been doing to promote their programs and to help decrease litter in their areas. Until last year, the conferences were held in different cities across the United States, with St. Louis hosting in 2002 and Austin most recently hosting in 2008.



Cathy Morrison

In 2009, the association decided to hold an international webinar instead of a location meeting, in order to save on costs and include as many states and countries as possible. MoDOT volunteered to host the webinar both years. This year's webinar featured presentations from Arizona, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, South Australia, Vermont and Keep America Beautiful.

"We had pretty good participation this year with more than 30 computers logged on to the webinar and multiple people at most of those computers," Armstrong says. "Of course a face-to-face conference has many other benefits, but technology like this saves everyone a lot of time and money and still allows us to share best practices."

The conference was summed up best by one participant who said it was "wonderful to get the global picture."

For more information, visit www.adopt-a-highway.org.

for more info

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Note-able Performance



Shaun Schmitz

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School orchestra from Jefferson City came to the Central Office headquarters building on Dec. 14 to perform holiday music and bring holiday cheer to employees.

The Question Behind the Question

More than 300 employees from around the state attended a presentation in Jefferson City on Nov. 30 that asked the question behind the question.

John G. Miller was the featured speaker presenting on QBQ: The Question Behind the Question. In his program, he focuses on what each of us can do to improve difficult situations. Instead of blaming someone for a lack of action, he challenged the group to ask "what can I do to make this situation better?" He focused on putting personal accountability into daily action.

Senior Employee Development Specialist Caroline Pearson worked to bring Miller to Jefferson City and coordinate the presentation. She is now licensed

to run this training for other MoDOT employees. Initially, the training will be offered on a limited basis due to budget and the licensing agreement. In the future, more MoDOT employees may have the opportunity to benefit from this valuable program.

At the end of the program, Miller gave everyone a copy of two of his best-selling books: QBQ! The Question Behind the Question, and Flipping the Switch.

"I have found that since I read the book, I ask myself more often, 'how can I make a particular situation better instead of finger-pointing or looking for someone to blame?'" said Pearson.



Jackie Kampeter

John G. Miller spoke in Jefferson City on Nov. 30, focusing on personal accountability and asking employees the question behind the question.

D1

Northwest

Friends Helping Friends

by M. Elaine Justus



M. Elaine Justus

These are just a few of the people who helped raise money and supplies for the "Friends of the Animal Shelter" in St. Joseph. With the downturn in the economy, area shelters are overwhelmed with abandoned pets.

Looking back on 2010, we would have to say it has been a challenging year. Since the start of the Safe & Sound Bridge Program, we have completed 36 of the 155 bridges we are expected to do. We could see as many as 82 bridges in 2011. An intimidating number.

Another memorable feature of 2010 has to be the increase in requests for help we have received. MoDOT employees with cancer, brain tumors, failing kidneys, children with blood-borne diseases we can barely pronounce. Through them all, though, we have

Farewell to the "Shack"

by M. Elaine Justus



Lisa Kellison

In one afternoon, a skid loader removed decades of MoDOT history.

Sometimes there is a "downside" to progress. For several decades, a little wooden shack has stood next to our fuel pumps at the Northwest District office. It was a familiar friend to MoDOT and Troop H Highway Patrol alike. Inside this modest structure was every-

thing you needed to fuel up and document your usage. The interior walls were covered with penciled comments and numbers that dated back to the 1960s. It made for entertaining reading while you took care of business. Nostalgia has been replaced with automation.

for more info

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been able to step up to the challenge. We have raffled baskets, auctioned off weekend trips to St. Louis, tickets to the K.C. Renaissance Festival, Halloween cemetery tours, black powder rifles, dinner certificates, and even cases of motor oil to raise much-needed funds.



We actually "Zumba'd" to the music as a fund-raiser for one of our own.

Food drives? Yes, we did a number of those. We even did a "Faux Food Drive" for a co-worker with extreme dietary limitations. Instead of canned goods, people donated cash and gift cards from local groceries.



M. Elaine Justus

Food Drive



Faux Food Drive



We auctioned off a number of things to raise money for our co-workers including a weekend in downtown St. Louis.

A couple of times, the issue was Share Leave. We got word that there was not enough left in the statewide account to meet the needs, and within a day or so, we donated over 590 hours.

The issue is not just about people, though. In November, we received word that the St. Joseph Animal Shelter was desperately in need of dog food, cat food, cat litter, leashes, paper towels, and a lot more. With the economy being what it is, and with winter coming on, people are surrendering their family pets in record numbers. We pulled together and provided what we could.

There is no doubt similar events are happening statewide in every district. As we start a new year, it is good to know we truly do have some things to be genuinely proud about.



The View From the Road

by M. Elaine Justus



Holly L. Murphy

Hay! Is that a Holstein cow?

Shatto Milk Company is a local dairy operation that has been getting a lot of attention recently, and not just for their hay bale sculpture. The farm has been in the same family since the 1800s, but in the 1990s, like so many others, they were no longer able to be profitable. The family refused to give up, and "reinvented" themselves as a small,

personal dairy operation dedicated to providing "the freshest and best tasting milk on the market" - hormone free. They use only glass bottles, which are reusable, and they offer guided tours that even give children a chance to experience "milking." This hay bale Holstein is visible from Route 33 as you travel through Clinton County.

D2

North Central

Governor's Award for Recycling Innovations

by Tammy Wallace

The North Central District was honored in November by Gov. Jay Nixon as he presented the district with the Mis-

1939 and replaced it with new pavement, concrete curb and gutter, landscaping and lighting. Sections of the



Pictured left to right – Cindy Norman, Interagency Recycling Committee; Tim Sims, intermediate construction inspector; Aaron Peck, assistant to the resident engineer; Dan Niec, district engineer; Gov. Jay Nixon; Preston Kramer, project manager; Kathryn Harvey, state design engineer; Aaron McVicker, senior highway designer and Erin Gruber, transportation project designer.

souri State Recycling Program Award for 2010. The award was given to the district for demonstrating innovation and leadership in recycling on the New Franklin Parkway Project on Route 5 in Howard County.

The award, which was presented in recognition of outstanding contribution to our environment, was accepted by MoDOT's North Central District Engineer Dan Niec. "We are honored to receive this award," said Niec. "The New Franklin Parkway is a project that our district is extremely proud of, not only

old concrete bridge rail were preserved and placed at the entrance to the Katy Trail next to the bridge.

All of the material from the original structure was recycled on-site, including 8,500 tons of concrete from the bridge, 120 feet of guardrail, steel reinforcement and other materials.

Part of the recycled materials were used to reduce the cost of the project by \$25,000; with other materials being used for a variety of future maintenance operations. The district will also realize additional savings from the lower cost of maintaining the new parkway.

Several MoDOT staff members who were instrumental in the success of the project joined Niec in accepting the award, along with MoDOT's State Design Engineer Kathryn Harvey.

More information and photos of the project can be found on the web site at <http://www.modot.mo.gov/Northcentral/New-FranklinViaduct.htm>.



Crushing the concrete bridge right on the job.

for the recycling aspects, but also for its positive impact to the community."

The project removed a large structurally deficient concrete bridge built in

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A Fast Start to Safe and Sound and a Quick Finish in 2011

by Preston Kramer

On Dec. 7, District Two wrapped up a very successful Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program construction season; a construction season that started early in January.

Three bridges underwent significant rehabilitation and 33 deficient bridges were completely replaced with new, wider, safer structures. Constructing 36 bridges in one construction season

brings the to-date total up to 47 bridges rehabilitated or replaced.

At the end of 2010 the program is now 62 percent complete, the



The district passed the 50 percent completion mark for the Safe and Sound Bridge Program on Nov. 12, 2010 when the bridge on Route P over Big Branch near Princeton in Mercer County opened to traffic. Top: The newly completed bridge on Route P. Bottom: Celebrating the new bridge and the 50 percent milestone.



was very challenging and rewarding, and one that was unprecedented for the district. These 36 bridges were scattered across the District in 10 of our 14 counties.

The district's Safe and Sound Program started in 2009, when 11 bridges underwent major rehabilitation, which

and our customers have really appreciated receiving these new bridges in record time.

So far, our fastest bridge replacement has been in Grundy County on Route E over Crooked Creek. The contractor removed the old bridge, put in the

new bridge, and had the roadway re-opened to traffic in only 22 calendar days. While this replacement time is very impressive, we are striving to replace bridges even faster.

As the 2010 construction season began winding down, preparations were already beginning to replace another 28 bridges in 2011. Construction should begin again in mid-February and run through mid-November, completing the district's 75 bridges in the program.

District Two Safe and Sound Bridge Program		
County	Routes	2010
Adair	11, D	3
Carroll	139, B, E, J, M, OO, W	10
Grundy	E, WW	2
Linn	DD, E	2
Livingston	D, K	2
Macon	156	1
Mercer	P	1
Putnam	5, 136, 139, EE, M	5
Saline	127, AC	4
Sullivan	5, 6, 129, 139, N, O	6
County	Routes	2011
Adair	11, A, V	4
Carroll	B, M	2
Howard	124	1
Chariton	11, P	2
Macon	156, C, J, OO	5
Randolph	M	1
Saline	127, OR I-70, C, D, M, P, VV	8
Schuyler	A, E, J	3
Sullivan	C, H	2

D3

Northeast

Math Students' Bridge Trip

About 50 algebra and math students from Paris High School visited one of the bridges at Mark Twain Lake during a Snooper inspection. "This was terrific," said Deb Rinz, one of the teachers who accompanied the students. "They asked good questions and learned something about bridge structures; we were very impressed with the presentation and the Snooper," she added.

District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Mark Giessinger and Regional Bridge Inspector Larry Fritz helped coordinate the event. Mark shared interesting tidbits about the bridge with the class and answered all types of questions, including, "How much do they [bridge inspectors] make?"

The local newspaper covered the visit, and Rinz made a video of the event. It is linked on the NE District Facebook page.



District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Mark Giessinger shares his knowledge about the Mark Twain Lake bridges with a group of Paris High School math students, while the Snooper inspects one of the bridges.

Students Benefit from Sidewalk Funding

The frigid temperature didn't seem to bother the students, wearing skirts, shorts, and some even T-shirts, as they watched several MoDOT partners and their own classmates break ground for a new sidewalk in Philadelphia. The Safe Routes to School project was awarded to Marion County and will connect Marion County R-2 school with the community

center, giving kids the opportunity to walk on the sidewalk in town instead of along Route D. The city of Truesdale received a similar grant that will connect all four of its schools with sidewalks before next spring. A ceremony was held and included a special poem read by students, who also participated in the groundbreaking.



The entire school came out for the sidewalk groundbreaking in Philadelphia, Mo.

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Around the District



Two Noteworthy Awards were given to two very deserving individuals last month. (Left) Area Engineer Jennifer Hinson presents Maintenance Supervisor Roger Parton (Edina/Memphis) with an award for his leadership during the pavement operations this year. (Right) Mike Foppe, assistant maintenance supervisor in Troy, was recognized for ensuring families had proper car seats for their children by performing more than 150 car seat checks in three different events this year. Foppe was recognized in front of his supervisor and the entire NE Regional Blueprint Committee.



To support and develop employees, the NE District implemented Career Advancement Training for maintenance crew leaders and other potential supervisors. The training includes modules such as public speaking, procurement, time sheets, personality tests, and coaching. There were 20 graduates in the first class last spring, and 16 in this fall's class, pictured above.



Just in time for winter! Several of our buildings have been giving snow plow demonstrations to various elementary and middle schools. In addition to the equipment, the kids are shown the various materials used to help with snow removal.



Eighteen children from a local head start program were given the Christmas of their dreams at MoDOT last month. A committee holds fundraisers throughout the year to support the event, which brings joy to underprivileged kids in northeast Missouri. Santa and Mrs. Claus, "close friends" of retiree Dean Ehret and his wife, Donna, are special visitors during the event.

D4

Kansas City Area

What Does a Purple Gallinule and a Missouri Highway Have in Common?

by Michelle Compton

A lot more than you might think! In fact, most people don't realize that ecological conservation is an important, if unseen, part of running a major state highway system.

With almost every MoDOT project, ecological factors are researched, studied and considered during the decision-making process of a highway project's design.

In fact, MoDOT is required by law to consider the potential impacts of its federally funded or permitted projects on the natural environment, such as a wetland. Generally MoDOT's direction is to avoid wetlands whenever possible and replace those that are impacted from highway construction.

Recently, the department – in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – created a 30-acre wetland within a Jackson County Park on the east fork of the Little Blue River,

downstream of the Blue Springs Lake dam.

The USACE built the dam in the 1980s with the intention of developing this section of land into a fish hatchery for the Missouri Department of Conservation. When that project failed to move forward, they approached MoDOT for help.

MoDOT has built numerous wetlands on USACE-owned land in the past, including at the Truman Reservoir and Smithville Lake.

Currently open to the public, this rich oasis includes a handicapped-accessible wildlife viewing area and a parking lot. The site has become an area where bird watchers like to stop. For complete details, including snapshots of the wetlands, visit www.modot.org/kc.



Aerial view of the 30-acre wetland in Jackson County. The area provides a beautiful oasis for all to enjoy, with an abundance of wildlife and bird-watching capabilities.



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kclCON Project Team Receives 2010 Keystone Feature Award

MoDOT Recognized for Significant Contributions to Greater Kansas City Region

by Jennifer Benefield

The Clay County Economic Development Council and Clay County Commission honored the kclCON Project team with the Keystone Feature Award Dec. 9, 2010, for its significant contribution to Clay County and its surrounding region's economy and quality of life.

The Keystone Awards recognize new and existing companies that make a substantial impact in the Clay County community through significant capital investment, jobs creation, the improvement of neighborhoods and business districts, and for technological innovation.

"About half of our \$245 million fixed-project budget was invested in Clay County," said kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "There were over 500 people on the job at the peak of construction who contributed 1.3 million man hours to project. Our workforce development efforts also brought about 100 individuals into the highway construction industry. Investing in transportation creates jobs, spurs economic development and improves the quality of life for everyone touched by these projects."

kclCON Project safety, mobility, capacity and aesthetic improvements in Clay County include the widening of 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from four to six lanes; the reconstruction of the Armour Road interchange to include the addition of noise-dampening walls for people residing near the Armour Road interchange; new bridges and ramps at 16th Avenue; the construction of the Levee Road/Bedford Avenue collector-distributor lane system providing improved commercial and personal vehicle access to and from the Paseo Industrial District; and the new, Christopher S. Bond



Beth Wright, Districe Engineer (center) and kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell (left) accept the 2010 Keystone Feature Award from Clay County Eastern Commissioner Katee Porter (left), Presiding Commissioner Ed Quick (right) and Western Commissioner Larry Larson (far right).

Missouri River Bridge that offers an iconic gateway experience for those traveling to and from Clay County. The project was constructed by Paseo Corridor Constructors, a joint-venture partnership of Clarkson Construction Company, Massman Construction Co. and Kiewit Construction Co. It was designed by Parsons and TranSystems.

D4 also received a 2010 Community Award for completing 13 additional projects totaling approximately \$46.2 million. Improvements included the rehabilitation and addition of bicycle/pedestrian facilities on the Heart of America and Chouteau Bridges, interchange improvements at Route 9 and Briarcliff Parkway, numerous bridge and roadway repairs, ADA sidewalk improvements, and the expansion of Kansas City Scout's bi-state traffic management system.



The Christopher S. Bond Missouri River Bridge as it looks today.

D5

Central

Thanks to Our Recent Retirees

The Central District would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of district employees who retired between September and December 2010. These seven employees have a combined total of 215 years of service. We offer our sincere thanks and wish them well in their future endeavors.



Carol Pleus retired on Sept. 1, 2010 after 40 years of service with MoDOT. Carol worked for many years as the district main-

tenance clerk, earning the nickname "Mother Maintenance." In 1998 she moved to the traffic division and held the position of senior traffic technician at the time of her retirement. Carol was also the Adopt-A-Highway coordinator for the district.

Sherwin McKinney worked at MoDOT for 32 years before retiring on Sept. 1 as an intermediate maintenance work-



er at the Ashland maintenance facility. Sherwin has worked at Central Office, the district concrete crew, and the New Bloomfield and Brazito facilities during his time with the department. He also held the positions of structural steel painter, crew worker, and bridge maintenance crew worker.

Larry Wilbanks' last day was Sept. 1, 2010. Larry retired after 26 years as a senior maintenance worker at Hallsville. He also worked at the LaMonte and Sedalia maintenance buildings during his tenure with the department.



David Johns retired on Sept. 1 after 25 years of service with MoDOT. Dave began his time at MoDOT at the Central Office bridge division. He has held the positions of structural designer, senior structural designer, senior highway designer, and transportation manage-



ment system engineer. He retired as a transportation project designer.



Mike Kiso worked at MoDOT for 28 years before retiring Oct. 1 as a senior facility operations specialist with the district's building maintenance crew. Mike also held the positions of crew worker, senior crew worker, building specialist, and special maintenance supervisor.

Joe Taylor retired on Oct. 1 after 32 years of service with MoDOT. Joe was a senior construction technician at the time of



his retirement, but also held the positions of construction technician, field acquisition technician, and construction assistant. He worked in District 3 before coming to District 5.



Mike O'Malley's last day at MoDOT was Nov. 1, 2010. Mike was the resident engineer at the Camdenton Project Office. He also worked in District 6 before coming to District 5, and has held the positions of special assignments engineer, senior construction inspector, senior construction technician, and construction assistant. Mike worked at MoDOT for 32 years.

California Maintenance Workers Assist Injured Motorist

by Holly Dentner

Last August, two employees from the California maintenance building reinforced what it means to go the extra mile as a transportation employee when they came to the aid of an injured



Phil Cain

motorist, staying with her until emergency workers could arrive.

Senior maintenance workers Phil Cain and Dave Logan were driving on Route O in

Moniteau County when they saw a vehicle that had apparently been involved in a crash. They stopped to see if they could help and found a female driver with minor injuries.

"She told us she had been in an accident and was pretty shook up," said Cain.

"We did our best to keep her calm and make sure she was okay."

Cain and Logan administered first aid and called the driver's husband while they waited for the sheriff's department to arrive.

In a thank you letter from the driver, she said "MoDOT should be proud to have these two fine men work in their department."

Cain said that it's not the first time he's come upon an accident.

"When we see one, we stop and do what we can to help," said Cain. "It's not just part of our job, it's the right thing to do."



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Watch Central District Videos on YouTube

Two new videos were posted last month on the district's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/MoDOTCentral. Tune in to watch a video on the importance of seat belts in rollover crashes and another on the pedestrian/bicycle attachment on the Missouri River Bridge in Jefferson City.

Matt Myers, coordinator for the Central Region Coalition for Roadway Safety, was filmed in front of the coalition's new roll-over crash simulator, talking about its purpose and importance.

"Most people don't realize how many thousands of pounds of force are involved during a rollover crash, and what that force can do to a person being thrown around inside the vehicle," said Myers in the video.



Resident Engineer Charles Sullivan describes the ramp structure in the background behind him. It will eventually connect to the new bridge attachment, allowing cyclists and pedestrians access to cross the Missouri River.



The car used in the Coalition's rollover simulator was actually in a rollover crash in 2009. The driver credits her seat belt for keeping her secure inside the vehicle.

The crash simulator is a small car, mounted on a trailer, which rotates in the air to simulate a crash. The coalition takes it to parades, school events, and civic functions in central Missouri to help spread the word about the importance of buckling up.

The second video offers an update on the progress of the pedestrian/bicycle attachment on the Missouri River Bridge in Jefferson City.

Resident Engineer Charles Sullivan talks about the ramp structure on the north side of the river, which is nearly complete. He also describes the work the contractor will do over the winter months to build the deck for the new walkway.

D6

St. Louis Area

2010 Service Awards

20 Years with MoDOT

Christopher Bury, Michael Dodge, Rebecca Fisher, Randy Hitt, Roger

Hopkins, Carol Kliethermes, Teresa Krenning, Gregory Mezinis, Gregory Owens, Cheryl Sprogoe.



25 Years with MoDOT

Stephen Bauman, John Brendel, Lawrence Brooks, Cynthia Coleman, James Collier, Larry Doelling, Donald Duclos, Dana Edmondson, Gary Ferguson, James Gremaud, Thomas Grippe, William Hampton, Kelly Hensen, Robert

Herzberg, John Hodge, Larry Johnson, Steven Lockett, Thomas Montes-De-Oca, Ronald Morris, Glen Petersen, Larry Rohr, Robert Shaw, Robert St. Gemme, Kevin Steiger, Jefre Sullentrop, Lise Susnic, Daryl Swindle, Kevin Trentmann, Anthony Utz, Joseph Wilde, Phillip Wilson, Donald Young.



35 Years with MoDOT

Barry Bergman is the only MoDOT employee recognized this year for 35 years of service.



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MoDOT Installs First ITS Devices on Non-Freeway Arterial Routes

by Linda Wilson

Motorists on three St. Louis area major arterials are benefitting from intelligent transportation technology to improve their commutes similar to the equipment used on the freeways. In December and early January, MoDOT installed Intelligent Transportation System dynamic message signs, cameras and sensors to Route 94 in St. Charles County, Route 141 in St. Louis and Jefferson Counties, and three sections of U.S. 67 and U.S. 61/67 (Lindbergh Blvd.) in St. Louis County.

"These message signs are similar to the ones already available on the freeways, just a little smaller. They provide instant communication with drivers on road conditions up ahead," said MoDOT Assistant St. Louis District Engineer Tom Blair.

the major connection between all of the Missouri River crossings in St. Charles County. With advanced information, drivers can make better decisions about what road or river crossing they want to take."

The arterial ITS installation included 44 additional cameras, 29 message signs, and complete sensor coverage. In total, District 6 now has 295 cameras, 123 message signs, sensor coverage on 225 centerline miles of freeways, and sensor coverage on 57 miles of arterials, for monitoring and communicating road conditions.

"The systems used to generate travel times along these arterials will be among the few in the country providing accurate, dynamic travel time along a



Sensors placed farther beyond signalized intersections are used to calculate travel times on Route 94 in St. Charles County, the first non-freeway signalized arterial with intelligent transportation system technology.

These signs will work in conjunction with speed sensors and traffic cameras to help provide information on travel times, upcoming lane or roadway closures, crashes and congestion. From the Transportation Management Center, engineers and operators monitor traffic speeds and incidents using the newly installed sensors and cameras. Route 94 is the first signalized arterial in Missouri to be fully equipped with ITS technology. The Route 94 equipment extends from Interstate 70 to U.S. 40/61. The Route 141 project includes equipment from U.S. 40/61 to Interstate 55. The north county U.S. 67 system is from Rt. 367 to Missouri Bottom Rd., with the west county system on U.S. 61/67 system stretching from I-70 to Route 100, and the South County system from Big Bend Rd. to Lemay Ferry Rd.

The dynamic message signs are located in advance of major cross streets, with enough distance for drivers to make a decision on their routes. "The locations were strategically chosen to provide drivers information before reaching the key major highways and river crossings," said Blair. "The two St. Louis County roads serve as major relievers to incidents and congestion on Interstate 270. Route 94 serves as

signalized corridor," said D6 Traffic Operations Engineer Greg Owens. "On freeways, sensors take speed readings at several points between major interchanges and calculate the sum of those averages to generate displayable travel times. But arterial corridors cannot use this algorithm: traffic signals induce highly variable stops not found on freeways and average speed samples taken between signals are useless to generate travel time values."

What is used is a new technology application where an array of five embedded wireless magnetic probes are placed approximately every 1 to 1.5 miles apart just downstream of a signalized intersection in the leftmost through lane. "The magnetic probe array is so sensitive that it is able to uniquely identify each vehicle going over it. The sensor data is constantly networked to a central computer at the TMC, where the identification and timestamp are stored in a database. Once a matching identification is made at the next array, the system calculates the time difference and tags it as a "match."

"Multiple matches over a short amount of time from other vehicles are then used to generate accurate travel time data," said Owens.

D7

Southwest

Right of Way Manager is an Ironman

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis



Few things get in Right of Way Manager Andy Ellsworth's way, least of all biking, running and swimming a total of 140.6 miles in half a day.

On Nov. 21, 2010, Ellsworth took the Ironman Challenge in Tempe, Ariz. A full Ironman consists of swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running 26.2 miles, all in one day. The start of the swim was at 7 a.m. and Ellsworth

finished the race in 12 hours, 29 minutes and 47 seconds (his goal was to finish under 13 hours). He placed 878th out of 2,400 competitors.

"I've done half triathlons for about four years, but this was my first full-distance triathlon," Ellsworth said. "I swam competitively in college and always wanted to do a triathlon. Once I competed in one, I was hooked."

Ellsworth said the race in November was full of challenges. "The water temperature in Tempe Lake was 61 degrees, and there were strong head winds, rain and hail on the bike course. At one point on the bike I wondered, 'Why am I doing this? Am I going to finish?'"

Once he completed the bike portion, he knew he could finish the race by midnight, which is the cutoff time. "I started running and just kept moving forward until I crossed the finish line."

He said having his wife and son there cheering him on helped tremendously and kept him going. "As I ran down



the last 100 yards to the finish line a couple thousand spectators—including Katie and Gavin—were cheering me on, and as I crossed the finish line the announcer said, 'Andrew Ellsworth, you are an Ironman!' It's a memory I'll always cherish."

So why would anyone run, bike and swim for 12 hours straight? "I'm a competitive person and wanted to

challenge myself by competing in an endurance event that would test me physically and mentally. And I want to stay in shape and be healthy."

Ellsworth plans on doing other Ironman races in the future. "Each race is different and presents different challenges to overcome."



Preschoolers Go on Field Trip

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

In early December, 36 preschoolers from Cassville Head Start descended upon the Cassville Maintenance building for a field trip.

Customer Service Representative Dee Dee Powell spoke to the kids about the different highway signs and safety on the roads, and Adopt-A-Highway

Coordinator Vicky Luciano talked to the kids about litter.

The grand finale was when Regional Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Ozbun and Maintenance Supervisor David Colf gave the kids tours of the trucks and a demonstration of how the salt and aggregate work to melt snow.



David Colf (left) and Bryan Ozbun show the trucks to the kids.

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7th Street Expansion Project Celebrated with Ribbon Cutting

by Lori Marble



District 7 Engineer Becky Baltz thanks Doug Fronick with APAC-Missouri, Inc., for the project being on time and under budget.

MoDOT's Southwest District hosted a ribbon-cutting celebration of the completion of the East 7th Street widening project Dec. 6.

Despite frigid temperatures and gusty winds, a large group of residents, local dignitaries and elected officials were there to mark the occasion.

The best quote delivered by the ribbon-cutting speakers was delivered by Missouri Speaker of the House Ron Richard: "A wise man once said it's never too cold of a day to open a road in southwest Missouri." Nice job!" And with that he took his seat. Later Richard attributed his inspired delivery to Missouri Highways and Transportation Presiding Commissioner Rudy Farber.

APAC-Missouri, Inc. widened 7th Street to four lanes with a center turn lane from Duquesne Road to Route 249. Traffic signals were installed at Garden Grove Road, Travis Acres Road and Kenser Road. Construction cost totaled \$6.8 million.

D8

Springfield Area

New Lake Taneycomo Bridge Opening Marks Milestone

by Bob Edwards

The mid-December opening of the new Lake Taneycomo bridge, under construction for a year, marked a major milestone in a project that also involves rehabilitating the existing historic bridge.

The existing bridge is closed until late December 2011 while the deck is replaced and other maintenance is completed.

When the entire project is completed, two two-way bridges across Lake Taneycomo will connect Hollister and downtown Branson.



Traffic uses new Lake Taneycomo bridge (left) and roundabout on Hollister side. The historic bridge is closed for major repairs.

- The repaired historic bridge will take Route 76/Bus. Route 65 traffic to and from Veterans Boulevard through the center of downtown Branson.
- The new bridge, now open, carries traffic to and from Branson Landing Boulevard along the lakefront just downhill from the center of downtown.

A new roundabout on the Hollister side opened when the new bridge went into use. The roundabout is the key to greatly reducing the backups that occurred at a traffic signal on the Hollister end of the historic bridge. Slowdowns are fewer even during morning and evening rush hour.

"Most traffic seemed to adjust to it," Branson Resident Engineer Gayle Davis said after the switch took place. "People are zipping right on through."

During construction on the historic bridge, Route 76/Bus. Route 65 traffic is being detoured along Branson Landing Boulevard between the new bridge and the Route 65/248 interchange.

However, drivers are able to get into downtown Branson via Main Street and Commercial Street as well as Veterans

Boulevard off the roundabout near Skaggs Memorial Hospital.

The district's Traffic Department has been keeping an eye on traffic flow and will work with the city of Branson to adjust the signals along Branson Landing Boulevard if needed.

Davis said rehabbing the historic bridge by the end of 2011 will be a challenge.

"It'll be long hours and a lot of work to get it done," he said.

District Engineer Kirk Juranas said he is glad the project will preserve the

gracefully designed historic bridge – the state's longest and oldest (1931) spandrel arch bridge.

"It's a good balance between improving the traffic situation (by adding a new bridge) and honoring what was constructed in the past. And that was our goal."

The project cost is \$12.2 million. The new bridge is being built for \$7.4 million, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. MoDOT is providing money along with congressionally earmarked funds to do the \$4.8 million rehabilitation of the historic bridge. The prime contractor is Jensen Construction of Des Moines, Iowa.



D8 at Work

1. and 2. The Dora maintenance crew repairs a driveway approach along Route 181 near Dora. Senior Maintenance Worker Will Scharnhorst pushes rock into place with a truck's belly plow. Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Croney smooths things up with a shovel before the rock is compacted.
3. Senior Financial Services Technician Tammy Westervelt, right, helps Branson Maintenance Worker Clint Smithson with medical insurance paperwork.
4. Senior Transportation Planner Andrew Seiler, right, works with community representatives from rural areas of the district. They are going through applications and selecting projects – mostly sidewalks – that will receive "enhancement" funds.

Fordland Maintenance Veteran Retires

by Angela Eden

Fordland Maintenance Supervisor Randy Owens

Service: 37 years (Hired Nov. 1, 1973)

Career: Crew worker to senior crew worker, Fordland Maintenance, 1973-1997; maintenance specialist, Marshfield Maintenance, 1997 (six months);

maintenance supervisor, Fordland Maintenance, 1997-2010

Memorable accomplishment: Building right-turn lane from Route 60 to Greene County Farm Road 243 and lengthening left-turn lanes on Route 60 at Webster County Routes B/VV in Rogersville. Both projects improved safety for buses and students going to Logan-Rogersville schools.

Favorite duties: Acting as the main MoDOT point of contact for law enforcement and community members in the Fordland area

Quote: "I think my biggest accomplishment is keeping everyone (his crew)

safe out here. We've been real fortunate."

Post-MoDOT plans: Work around home just outside Fordland; spend more time with two grandsons and wife, Vanessa; do more fishing and hunting



Owens

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D9

South Central

D9 Receives Concrete Pavement Award

Resident Engineer Vicki Woods and Transportation Project Manager Pete Berry were presented with a Gold-level Excellence in Concrete Pavement Award by the American Concrete Pavement Association this December.

The award was given for an unbonded concrete overlay project completed on Interstate 44 near Rolla last year.

The \$11.1 million dollar project included over nine miles of construction with head-to-head traffic and was completed early. The contractor was Iron Mountain Construction Services.



The ACPA rewards high-quality pavement projects and is given based on votes from more than 30 judges. The judging is based on factors such as quality construction, addressing unique and unusual challenges, innovation, traffic management, and more.



Representatives from Iron Mountain Construction Service, Resident Engineer Vicki Woods (center) and Transportation Project Manager Pete Berry (front row, right)

Employees Raise Money for Children

14

District 9 held a chili cook-off fundraiser on Dec. 2 to raise money for local children's charities. Employees solicited donations for the fundraiser, and gave their time, service and chili to a great cause.

The district office held the largest chili cook-off, with additional fundraisers held in the Edgar Springs, Houston, Summersville and Success Maintenance Buildings. A total of \$1,938.54 was raised.

According to South Central District Traffic Operations Engineer, and Chili Committee Chairwoman, Jennifer Atkinson, the event was a success. "We

were successful in meeting our goal - helping a few local children have a better Christmas morning.

Three local charities will be receiving funds to help children as a result of your efforts - Bears for a Better Christmas in Willow Springs, the Community Christmas Assistance Program in West Plains, and Shop With a Cop in the Houston area," said Atkinson.



Capt. Isringhausen with Troop G carefully judges chili.

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Transport Officer Laura A. Whittingham Remembered



Rep. Dethrow, Rep. Wells, and the Brown Family unveil the memorial sign.

The friends and family of Transport Officer Laura A. Whittingham gathered on the third anniversary of her death to honor her memory with a bridge dedication.

Officer Whittingham was a volunteer Transport Officer for the Howell County Sheriff's Department when she was killed in an automobile accident while transporting inmates. The bridge crossing over Indian Creek, just south of Houston on Route 63 was named in her memory on Dec. 6.

Speakers at the ceremony included MoDOT District Engineer Tom Stehn, Rep. Don Wells, Rep. Mike Dethrow, and Ellis Peoples, field representative for the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

Rep. Wells and Rep. Dethrow sponsored the legislation to dedicate the

structure to Officer Whittingham. "I felt honored to be able to do this. I will think about Laura when I pass that sign and see her name on the bridge. In memorializing her this way, she'll never be forgotten...I'm thankful that our state has come up with such a way to honor the people who have died serving our communities," said Rep. Wells.

There were many tears as Officer Whittingham's elder brother Michael Brown addressed the crowd. "I never imagined the day that she'd be laid to rest before I was. She couldn't keep from showing how enthusiastic she was about becoming a deputy. It doesn't seem fair that she didn't get to fully realize that dream, but I have no doubt in my mind that the day she died, she was doing something she enjoyed and felt good about," said Brown.

Curtis Dowden Wins Annual Statewide Recycling Award

District 9 Senior Materials Inspector Curtis Dowden was recently recognized for his outstanding contributions to waste reduction and recycling by the Missouri State Recycling Program. Gov. Jay Nixon presented Dowden with the individual 2010 Annual Recycling Award at the state capitol on Nov. 17.

Dowden was recognized for his work with "Recycle for Christ's Sake." The goal of this church-based program is to reduce the amount of plastic introduced into landfills and use the proceeds for non-profit Christian mission work. In support of the group, he collects an average of 70 pounds of plastic a week from MoDOT building sites, bales it, and transports it to a local recycling center.

Dowden donates a great deal of his own time and energy to support recycling at work and at home. He has tied his recycling efforts to supporting another cause he strongly believes in.

To date, his efforts have contributed to building a school in the Philippines, providing school supplies to underprivileged children in Morocco, drilling wells for clean water in western Africa, and remodeling a compound for minister training in Chame, Panama.

Dowden says there are many individuals who contributed to his receipt of the award. "I would like to thank everyone that has helped me win the 2010 Statewide Recycling Award. It's an honor to know a group of people within District

9 that have a vision for the betterment of people all over the world," said Dowden.



Pictured (l-r) are District Design Engineer Mike Wake, Curtis Dowden, Gov. Jay Nixon, and Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee Member Cindy Norman.

D10

Southeast

Christmas Angels Chili Dinner a Success

Local Businesses and Individuals Bring Christmas Wishes to Underprivileged Children

Thanks to the generosity of numerous area businesses, organizations and individuals, MoDOT's Christmas Angels Chili Dinner was once again a successful event. Raising more than \$3,000, proceeds from the event will help underprivileged families in the southeast Missouri area.

"We started taking orders in early November," said Senior Design Technician Katherine Hixson. "Though we started slow, businesses came through with donations and orders which will allow us to provide Christmas gifts to area children who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas."

Nearly 100 businesses and individuals lent their support through chili orders, gift card donations, soccer balls and new coats. Other area organizations provided their equipment to enable MoDOT volunteers to prepare chili.

"In a time when the economy is down, it was so touching to see the outpouring of generosity," said Senior Design Technician Angie Fields. "We are blessed to live in an area where people

understand the importance of helping one another. We just can't say thank you enough."

While the dinner is complete, Hixson and Fields will continue to accept donations from anyone who would like to give. Businesses or individuals wishing to donate to the Christmas Angels program may send or drop their donations by the MoDOT District office located at 2675 North Main Street in Sikeston. Checks can be made out to the D10 Highway Credit Union c/o Christmas Angels. If you would like to be added to the list



With proceeds from the Christmas Angels Chili Dinner, Senior Design Technician Katherine Hixson shops for gifts for children who wouldn't have otherwise had a Christmas.

for the 2011 Christmas Angels Chili Dinner, please send your name, address and phone number to D10christmasangels@yahoo.com.

To view photos or the list of 2010 participants, please visit <http://www.modot.org/southeast/ChristmasAngels2010.htm>.

Parsleys Start Over With Help From MoDOT Family

In early November, the home of Regional Maintenance Supervisor Ed Parsley burned. While Ed and his family were not at home at the time of the fire, the family experienced a total loss.

As the family prepared to start over, news of the family's hardship traveled throughout MoDOT. Soon the Parsleys began receiving clothing, household items and monetary donations from the MoDOT family.

They were overwhelmed by the generosity of friends, family and even strangers. The family wanted to share their sincere thanks to everyone for their help and support during this difficult time:

Dear MoDOT Family,

My family and I cannot even begin to express our sincere thanks for the unbelievable support, whether it be financial, cards of inspiration, thoughts or prayers. It is truly humbling when disaster strikes to know that there are so many great people who want to help.

The MoDOT organization is a family that helps take care of their own. I am truly proud to be a part of it. May God Bless Each of You!

- The Edward Parsley Family

Johnny Lee Hays Receives Memorial Highway

Current and retired MoDOT employees, family and friends joined to celebrate the naming of the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway in December.

Hays worked for MoDOT as a maintenance shed foreman. In 2001, he was injured in a work-related accident. In 2003, he retired after 34 years of ser-

vice. Hays is the first Southeast District MoDOT employee to receive a memorial highway in his honor.

Butch Anderson, a retired MoDOT employee, noted the importance of the memorial highway and the great turnout at the dedication ceremony.

"How much more could you honor a man that dedicated his life to the people of the state of Missouri," said Anderson. "And that's what Johnny did. He worked his life to make the highways a better place."

Additional speakers at the ceremony included:

- Missouri Rep. Terry Swinger, District 162
- Scott Meyer, Cape Girardeau city manager (Former Southeast District Engineer)
- Mrs. Charlotte Hays
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton

Sen. Robert Mayer and Rep. Tom Todd sponsored the legislation, naming the portion of Highway 53 in Butler County from the city limits of Qulin to one mile south of the city limits the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway.

For photos and videos from the dedication ceremony, please visit http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/JohnnyLeeHays_Dec2010.htm.



Butch Anderson and Mrs. Charlotte Hays shared their memories of Johnny Lee Hays with attendees at the memorial highway dedication.



The Hays family and Mr. Butch Anderson unveiled the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway sign at the close of the ceremony.

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Connections

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



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Reminder: Review Your Check Stub!

It's that time of year again when we start seeing changes in our paychecks. Your net pay changes if your salary or deductions (health insurance, Cafeteria Plan, deferred comp, etc.) change. Make sure the amounts are right.

Your January 14, 2011 paycheck may change because of the following:

Federal and State Taxes

Any changes to the tax brackets for 2011 will apply beginning with this check.

Cafeteria Plan

The amounts you elected for 2011 Flexible Medical and Dependent Care will be deducted. If you did not opt out of

the Cafeteria Plan for medical, vision, or dental premiums during the enrollment period, the premiums will not be subject to taxes and you will see an administration fee deduction.

Delta Dental and VSP Plan

Added or changed coverage deductions will start with this check.

Missouri State Charitable Campaign

The amount you elected during the Charitable Campaign will be deducted.

Optional Life Insurance

Employees enrolled in Optional Life Insurance coverage may see a premium increase on the January 14, 2011 check

if you meet one of the following conditions:

You were employed before July 31, 2010, enrolled in a multiple of 1x to 6x your Annual Benefit Base Rate, and received a salary increase between July 31, 2009 and July 1, 2010.

OR

You have reached a milestone birthday in December as shown on the rate chart found at: <http://www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/documents/2011OptionalLifeRateChart.pdf>.

If you are enrolled under MOSERS, please contact them for information

concerning your benefits toll free at 800-827-1063.

It is also important to make sure the address on your electronic check stub is correct. W-2s will be mailed to your home address in January. Make sure the address is up to date to avoid delays in delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact your district or division payroll representative or the Controller's Division Payroll section.

For Your Benefit

MPERS Funds Valuable Retirement Contributions

by Sue Cox

Employee retirement benefits have been available to MoDOT employees for more than 50 years. When coming to work at MoDOT, an employee signs on to become a member of the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System and after a required number of service years becomes eligible for a benefit. MPERS is a defined benefit plan, which means the benefit will last throughout an employee's 'retired lifetime' and can be passed on to a surviving spouse. This serves as a key recruitment and retention tool for the department.

The retirement system's board of trustees recently supported a financial advisor's recommendation to fully fund

the contribution amount needed to support the retirement system in state fiscal year 2012. The new rate begins July 1, 2011, and will help the overall financial security of the system.

The trustees are charged with taking care of the employees' retirement funds and making investments that yield the best possible returns. Missouri law outlines expectations and responsibilities of those managing public funds. The MPERS board consists of 11 representatives – some elected by employees and retirees, some from the Highways and Transportation Commission, and some state legislators.

Based on the new rate, the cost of the current year's retirement benefit, referred to as the employer's normal cost, is 11.88 percent of the department's payroll. The employer's contribution for the catch-up payment on the unfunded liability that has accumulated throughout past years is 33.04 percent of the payroll.

An unfunded liability is something owed that hasn't yet been funded or paid. For the retirement system, the unfunded liability represents an obligation (like an I.O.U.) for past service credit or benefit enhancements that haven't been paid yet. This means plan contributions have been less than what's needed to cover the current and future promised benefits. The system is more secure

when the catch-up payment plan is followed to pay off the unfunded liability – thus the recent board action.

With the new rate, the employer's contribution for administrative expenses and disability insurance is an additional 1.14 percent. So the employer's total contribution is about 4.5 percent of the department's overall budget.

More information regarding the retirement system and employees' benefits can be found at www.mpers.org. Specific names and contact information are also available to guide employees to benefit specialists that can answer questions regarding personal situations.